



## **The Potential for Breakthroughs and the Contemporary Value of China-Ghana Fisheries Cooperation: Analysis of Precise Alignment Between Hubei's Experience and Ghana's Needs (Part III)**

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### **Compatibility of Endowments and Cooperation Paths in Freshwater Aquaculture between China and Ghana**

The development trajectory of China's freshwater fisheries, particularly that of Hubei Province, provides a highly valuable case study for Ghana. In an era where Global South countries are pursuing economic independence and industrial sovereignty, Sino-Ghanaian fisheries cooperation should transcend the traditional one-way export of aid and shift towards deep strategic collaboration based on mutual resource and



technological synergy. Therefore, the following collaborative framework may serve as a breakthrough path for promoting high-quality Sino-Ghanaian fisheries cooperation:

## **1. Building a Top-Level Cooperation Mechanism: Consolidating the Institutional Foundation for Collaborative Development.**

### **1.1. Signing of bilateral cooperation memorandum of understanding:**

The initiative aims to facilitate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture between the fisheries authorities of China and Ghana (the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Ghana). This MOU will establish a guiding framework for cooperation covering the entire industry chain, encompassing core areas such as aquatic resource mapping, aquaculture quality improvement, marine fishing regulations, scientific and technological collaboration, joint talent training, alignment of testing and certification standards, and investment and construction of fisheries infrastructure. Notably, Ghana's Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Emelia Arthur, formally proposed this cooperation initiative during a meeting with Han Jun, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China, on January 19, 2026 [1]. This laid a solid foundation for the signing of the memorandum and its subsequent progress.

### **1.2. Establish a regular coordination mechanism:**

Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, a "China-Ghana Fisheries Cooperation Secretariat" will be established, jointly led by the heads of the fisheries authorities of both countries. This secretariat will coordinate the planning and selection of cooperative projects, track implementation progress, resolve cross-sectoral obstacles to cooperation, and allocate dedicated funds to ensure the systematic implementation of cooperation initiatives. The secretariat has specially invited representatives from the Hubei Provincial Government to be included in the decision-making level. Leveraging Hubei's advantages in scientific research, industry, and policy in the fisheries sector, the secretariat will coordinate provincial government resources, research capabilities, and market entities to form an implementation framework of "National coordination, Hubei leadership, and Multi-party collaboration."

## **2. Scientific research empowerment and personnel training: activating the endogenous development momentum of the industry.**

### **2.1. Jointly conduct resource exploration and technological research:**

Focusing on the core needs of Ghana's fisheries development, joint assessments of the resource carrying capacity of Volta Lake and its surrounding inland waters will be conducted to scientifically formulate aquaculture spatial planning, clarify ecological protection red lines, and avoid the development pitfalls of "polluting first and then



cleaning up." Addressing the "three major pain points" in Ghana; high feed costs, a shortage of high-quality seedlings, and weak disease control-support will be provided for local Ghanaian universities and research institutions to jointly establish laboratories and R&D centers with the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, the Institute of Hydrobiology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Huazhong Agricultural University. These collaborations will focus on joint research into topics such as broodstock breeding, localized feed formulation development, disease control and biosafety system construction, and innovative aquaculture models adapted to Ghana's national conditions. During the research cooperation process, Ghanaian students and local professionals will be involved, achieving a dual-driven approach of "scientific research + talent cultivation."

## **2.2. Building a tiered talent development system:**

A tiered training model has been established, integrating in-depth training for key technical personnel, transformation of local trainers, and practical training for ordinary farmers. Technical experts from Ghana are selected and sent to Hubei Province for comprehensive, in-depth training, transforming them into local trainers. Utilizing local Ghanaian "field schools," these trainers provide hands-on instruction to ordinary farmers, gradually cultivating a group of "local experts" who master core skills in seedling breeding, feed application, and disease prevention. Simultaneously, a two-way training base is being jointly established: high-quality breeding bases in Hubei serve as demonstration training platforms for Ghanaian technical personnel learning in China, while local Ghanaian breeding sites provide short-term practical training for ordinary farmers, organically combining theoretical teaching with practical training.

## **3. Industrial cooperation and flagship demonstration base construction: creating a model for full-Chain development**

### **3.1. Promote multi-sector industrial investment cooperation:**

Actively guide Chinese fishery enterprises to conduct investment inspections and project cooperation in Ghana, focusing on key areas such as broodstock breeding, localized feed production, and deep processing of fish, to fill gaps in Ghana's fishery industry chain. Support Chinese enterprises in participating in the operation and management (O&M) of Ghana's National Aquaculture Centre, and seek cooperation opportunities in areas such as the construction of key fishing ports and the improvement of supporting cold chain facilities, helping Ghana to improve its fishery infrastructure system.



### 3.2. Building a flagship demonstration base for the entire industry chain:

Three to five flagship demonstration bases with "low cost, easy replication, and high returns" will be planned and constructed around Lake Volta. These bases will abandon "high-end" showroom-style technologies and prioritize the use of low-maintenance, highly adaptable equipment such as solar-powered aerators and simple mechanized feeders. The bases will integrate the entire chain of "breeding-farming-processing-cold chain-trading," promoting standardized aquaculture techniques, increasing product added value, and expanding market channels. The tangible economic benefits will attract social capital participation, creating a demonstration effect where "one base drives a region and radiates an industry," thus promoting the transformation of Ghana's fisheries from resource advantages to industrial advantages.

### Conclusion

China-Ghana fisheries cooperation is not only an integration of technology and resources but also a vivid example of how countries in the "Global South" are breaking away from dependent development and achieving structural transformation.

For China-Ghana relations, this cooperation exemplifies a new paradigm of South-South cooperation: it transcends the traditional model of one-way aid, focusing on the deep integration of "appropriate Chinese technology" and "Ghana's unique resources" to build an equal and mutually beneficial cooperative ecosystem. This "teaching a man to fish" approach not only injects new momentum into bilateral trade but also helps Ghana build an independent and controllable fisheries industry system through technology transfer and capacity building, thus solidifying the foundation of its industrial sovereignty.

From a global perspective, China-Ghana fisheries cooperation serves as a dual model for implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related initiatives of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, simultaneously advancing multiple goals such as zero hunger, decent work, and ecological protection. This "blue docking" across thousands of miles demonstrates to the world that only by upholding the principles of sincere cooperation and complementary advantages can we break through development bottlenecks, achieve independent development, and jointly write a new chapter of win-win cooperation for the countries of the Global South.

### References:

[1] Ghana Deepens Strategic Fishing Partnership with China to Drive Food Security, Jobs, and Blue Economy Growth (2026, January 21). Maritimafrica.



<https://maritimafrica.com/en/ghana-deepens-strategic-fisheries-partnership-with-china-to-drive-food-security-jobs-and-blue-economy-growth/>

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